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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/844,481	04/27/2001	Yasuhiko Onishi	FUJI:185	9134

7590 05/16/2002

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EXAMINER

LANDAU, MATTHEW C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2815

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/844,481

Applicant(s)

ONISHI ET AL.

Examiner

Matthew Landau

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,8-13,15-30 and 32-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,14 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,6 and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species I in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged.

Applicant's election response, filed April 22, 2002, electing Species I, fails to identify the claims which read on the species. Upon reviewing the claims, it is determined that claims 1-4, 6, 7, 14, and 31 read on this elected species, claim 1 being a generic claim.

Claim 5, 8-13, 15-30, and 32-34 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3, 4, 14, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Coe.

In regards to claim 1, Figure 1 of Coe discloses a lateral semiconductor device comprising: a semiconductor chip; two main electrodes (23,24) on one major surface of the semiconductor chip; and an alternating conductivity type layer 3 between the main electrodes (23, 24); wherein the alternating conductivity type layer comprises first semiconductor regions

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11 of a first conductivity type and second semiconductor regions 12 of a second conductivity type; wherein the first semiconductor regions 11 and the second semiconductor regions 12 are alternately arranged. Figure 2 of Coe discloses the alternating conductivity type layer 3 comprises a closed loop surrounding main electrode 23.

In regards to claim 3, Figure 2 of Coe discloses the alternating conductivity type layer 3 comprises at least one straight section and at least one curved section.

In regards to claim 4, Figure 2 of Coe discloses the alternating conductivity type layer 3 comprises at least two straight sections and at least two curved sections.

In regards to claim 14, Figure 2 of Coe discloses one closed loop including an alternating conductivity type layer 3.

In regards to claim 31, Coe discloses the lateral semiconductor device comprises a bipolar transistor (see column 11, lines 35-39). Coe further discloses the main electrode 23, the potential thereof is high, is inside the closed loop, and the other main electrode 24, the potential thereof is low, is outside the closed loop (see column 11, lines 39-46).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2, 6, and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Fujihira and Ahlers et al. disclose an alternating conductivity type layer between two main electrodes. Bhatnagar et al. discloses two main electrodes with the channel region forming a closed loop around one of the main electrodes.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew C. Landau whose telephone number is (703) 305-4396.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM-4: 30 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Lee can be reached on (703) 308-1690. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Matthew C. Landau

Examiner

May 13, 2002


EDDIE LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800